

COATING PROCESS AND APPARATUS

Abstract of the Disclosure

- 5 **[0101]** A web coating process and apparatus employing a coating applicator, dryer or
curing station and web-handling equipment for conveying the web past the coating applicator
and through the dryer. The web is enclosed from at least the coating applicator to the dryer or
curing station in a close-coupled enclosure or series of close-coupled enclosures supplied with
one or more streams of conditioned gas flowing at a rate sufficient to reduce materially the
10 particle count or change materially a physical property of interest in a close-coupled
enclosure.